

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A removable storage module, including:
 - a housing for holding a plurality of disk drives;
 - a connector mounted to the housing;
 - a plurality of disk drives disposed in the housing, and each drive having an I/O channel;
 - a plurality of switches disposed within the housing, each switch having at least three ports;
 - wherein the I/O channel each disk drives is coupled with a first port of a corresponding switch of the plurality of switches;
 - wherein the plurality of switches are selectively controllable such that the I/O channel of the disk drive which is coupled to the first port of the switch is coupled with either the a second port or a third port of the switch; and
 - wherein the second port and the third port of the switches ~~area~~ are coupled with the connector, such that data from the I/O channel of the drive can be transmitted through the connector from either the second port or the third port of the switch, and wherein the connector is configured such that when the plurality of switches are controlled so that the I/O channels of the plurality of drives are coupled with the second ports of the switches, then the I/O channel of the drives are coupled with a plurality of first host channels through the connector, and when I/O channel of the drives are coupled with the third ports of the switches then the I/O channels of the drives are coupled with a plurality of second host channels through the connector; and
 - wherein the connector operates receive a power supply voltage which is utilized to power the plurality of disk drives, and to drive the plurality of switches.

2. (currently amended) The removable disk drive module of claim 1, wherein the plurality of disk drives includes at least ~~[[for]]~~ four disk drives, and the plurality of switches includes at least four switches.

3. (original) The removable disk drive module of claim 1, where the I/O channel for each of the disk drives is a serial communication channel.

4. (currently amended) A removable storage system including:

a removable storage module having a plurality of disk drives, and each of the disk drives having an I/O channel;

a plurality of switches, wherein each of the plurality of switches corresponds to one of the plurality of disk drives, wherein a first port of each of the plurality of switches is coupled to the I/O channel for a corresponding disk drive;

a controller which is coupled with each of the plurality of switches and operable to control the plurality of switches such that each of the plurality of switches couple the I/O channel of a corresponding drive ~~the plurality of drives~~ with either a second port or a third port of the switch;

a docking base unit having an A channel and a B channel for each of the plurality of disk drives;

wherein the A channels of the docking base unit are coupled with a first computer, and the B channels of the docking base unit are coupled with a second computer; and

wherein the A channels are coupled with the second port of the plurality of switches, and the B channels are coupled with the third port of the plurality of switches.

5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) The removable storage system of claim ~~[[5]]~~ 4, wherein the controller is coupled with the first computer and the second computer, and based signals received from the first computer and the second computer, the controller causes the plurality of switches to be in a first position, or in a second position.

7. (original) The removable storage system of claim 6, wherein when the plurality of switches are in a first position the I/O channels of the plurality of drives are coupled with the A channels of the docking base unit, and when the plurality of switches are in a second position the I/O channels of the plurality of drives are coupled with the B channels of the docking base unit.

8. (original) The removable storage system of claim 4, wherein the plurality of disk drives includes at least four disk drives, and the plurality of switches includes at least for switches.

9. (original) The removable storage system of claim 4, wherein the I/O channel for each of the plurality of disk drives is a serial communication channel.

10. (original) The removable storage system of claim 4, wherein the plurality of disk drives are configured for RAID operation.

11. (canceled)

12. (original) A storage system, including:

a removable disk drive module having a plurality of disk drives;

a docking base unit having a pair of I/O channels corresponding to each of the plurality of disk drives, where a first channel of the pair of I/O channels is connected with a first computer, and a second channel of the pair of I/O channels is connected with a second computer; and

a plurality of switches, wherein each of the switches corresponds to one of the disk drives of the plurality of disk drives, and a first port of each of the switches is coupled with an I/O channel of the corresponding disk drive, and each of the plurality of switches has a second port and a third port, and the second port is coupled to the first channel of pair of channels which correspond to the disk drive, and the third port is coupled to the second channel of the pair of channels which correspond to the disk drive.

13. (original) The docking base unit of claim 12, wherein the docking base unit has multiple I²C interfaces for connection to a first PCI Raid controller card residing in the first computer, and to a second PCI RAID controller card residing in the second computer, wherein the docking base unit includes a controller for receiving the I²C communications from the first PCI Raid controller and the second PCI RAID controller.

14. (original) The docking base unit of claim 12, wherein the docking base unit includes plurality of Serial ATA connectors, and each of the channels of the plurality of pairs of channels is coupled to either one of the first computer or the second computer by one of the plurality of serial ATA connectors.

15. (original) The docking base unit of claim 12, including a controller, which is coupled with the plurality of switches, and controls the switches such that the plurality of switches connect I/O channels of the plurality of drives with either the first channel of the second channel of the pair of I/O channels corresponding to each of the plurality of drives.

16. (original) The docking base unit of claim 15, including a first connector for receiving a signals from the first computer, and a second connector for receiving signals from the second computer, wherein based on the signals from the first computer and the second computer, the controller operates to cause each of the plurality of switches to connect the I/O channel for each of the plurality of drives, with either the first computer or the second computer.

17. (New) A storage system, the storage system including:

a docking base unit having a first plurality of host I/O channels, a second plurality of host I/O channels, wherein a first computer is coupled with the first plurality of host I/O channels, and a second computer is coupled with the second plurality of host I/O channels, the docking base unit further including a first connector wherein a power voltage and the first plurality of host I/O channels, second plurality of host I/O channels are coupled to the first connector;

a removable storage module which includes a housing, and a second connector mounted to said housing, the removable storage module further including a plurality of

disk drives disposed in the housing, and each drive having an I/O channel, the removable storage module also including a plurality of switches, wherein each of the plurality of switches has at least three ports, and a first port of each switch is coupled to an I/O channel for a corresponding disk drive, wherein the plurality of switches are controllable such that the I/O channel of the disk drive can be selectively coupled with either the second port or the third port of the switch;

wherein the second connector of the removable storage module is coupled to first connector of the docking base unit;

wherein the second port and the third port of the switches are coupled with second connector such that data from the I/O channel of a drive can be transmitted through the second connector from either the second port or the third port of the switch, and wherein the second connector and the first connector are coupled such when the plurality of switches are positioned so that the I/O channels of the plurality of drives are coupled with the second ports of the switches, then the I/O channel of the drives are coupled with the plurality of first host channels through the first connector, and when I/O channel of the drives are coupled with the third ports of the switches then the I/O channels of the drives are coupled with the plurality of second host channels through the first connector; and

wherein the second connector receives the power supply voltage through the first connector, wherein the power supply voltage received by the second connector is utilized to power the plurality of disk drives.

18. (new) The system of claim 17 wherein the removable storage module further includes a hot swap controller which operates to control the power supply voltage to allow for coupling and decoupling the of the first connector and the second connector without requiring recycling of the power supply voltage.

19. (new) The system of claim 17 wherein the removable storage module further includes plurality of LEDS which operate provide operational information regarding the storage system.

20. (new) The system of claim 17 wherein the docking base unit includes a controller which receives control communications from the first computer, and from the second computer, and the controller is coupled with the plurality switches, and controls the position of the switches based on the control communications.